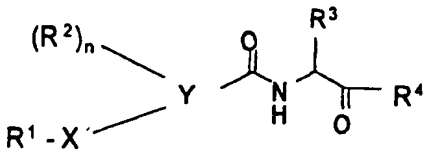
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An amide of the general formula I



and its tautomeric and isomeric forms, possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms, as well as possible physiologically tolerable salts, in which the variables have the following meanings:

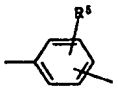
$R^1$ is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, quinolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, pyrazyl, pyridazyl, imidazolyl, thiazole, quinazyl, isoquinolyl, quinoxalyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, furanyl, and indolyl, where the rings can be additionally substituted by up to 3 radicals $R^5$,

$R^2$ is selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine, fluorine, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkenyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkenyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylphenyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkenylphenyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkynylphenyl, phenyl, NHCO-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $NHSO_2$-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, -NHCOphenyl, -NHCO-naphthyl, $NO_2$, -O-$C_1$-$C_4$ alkyl and $NH_2$, where the aromatic rings can additionally carry one or two radicals $R^5$ and two radicals $R^2$ together can also be a chain CH=CH-CH=CH- and thus form a fused benzo ring, which can be substituted by one $R^5$ and

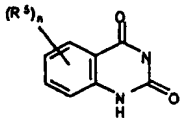
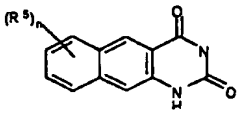
$R^3$ is -$C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, which is branched or unbranched, and which can additionally carry an S-$CH_3$ radical or a phenyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclopentyl, indolyl, pyridyl or naphthyl ring which is substituted by at most two radicals $R^5$, where $R^5$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, which is branched or unbranched, O-$C_1$-$C_4$ alkyl, OH, Cl, F, Br, I, $CF_3$, $NO_2$, $NH_2$, CN, COOH, COO-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, NHCO-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, -NHCO- phenyl, $-NHSO_2$-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $-NHSO_2$-phenyl, $-SO_2$-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-$NR^{12}R^{13}$ and $-SO_2$-phenyl,

X is selected from the group consisting of a bond, $-(CH_2)_m$-, $-(CH_2)_m$-O-$(CH_2)_o$- , $-(CH_2)_o$-S-$(CH2)_m$-[sic], $-(CH_2)_o$-SO-$(CH_2)_m$-, $-(CH_2)_o$-$SO_2$ $(CH_2)_m$-, -CH=CH-,

-C≡C-, -CO-CH=CH-, -(CH2)$_o$-CO-(CH$_2$)$_m$-, -(CH$_2$)$_m$ NHCO-(CH$_2$)$_o$-, -(CH$_2$)$_m$-CONH-(CH$_2$)$_o$-, -(CH$_2$)$_m$-NHSO$_2$-(CH$_2$)$_o$- , -NH-CO-CH=CH-, -(CH$_2$)$_m$-SO$_2$NH-(CH$_2$)$_o$- , -CH=CH-CONH- and

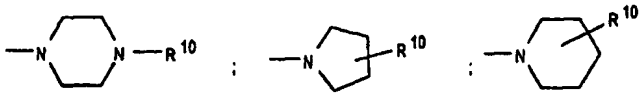


and in the case of CH=CH double bonds can be either the E or the Z form and R$^1$-X together are also

 and  and

Y is ~~pyridine~~ pyrimidine, and

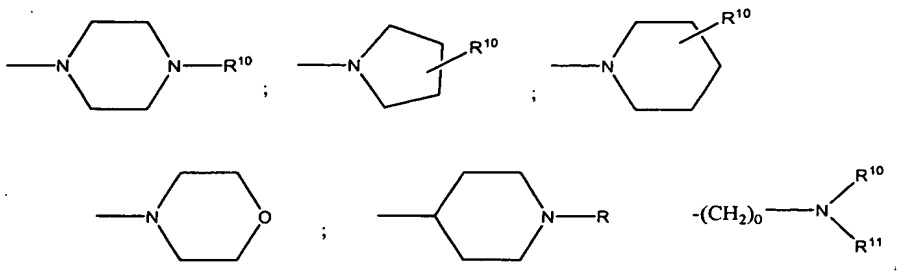
R4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, COOR$^6$, CO-Z, in which Z is NR$^7$R$^8$



R$^6$ is hydrogen or C$_1$-C$_6$-alkyl, which is linear or branched, and which can be substituted by a phenyl ring which itself can additionally be substituted by one or two radicals R$^9$, and

R$^7$ is hydrogen or C$_1$-C$_6$-alkyl, which is branched and unbranched, and

R$^8$ is hydrogen or C$_1$-C$_6$-alkyl, which is branched or unbranched which can additionally be substituted by a phenyl ring which can additionally carry a radical R$^9$, and by



and

$R^9$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, which is branched or unbranched, -O-$C_1$-$C_4$ alkyl, OH, Cl, F, Br, I, $CF_3$, $NO_2$, $NH_2$, CN, COOH, COO-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, -NHCO-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, -NHCO-phenyl, -$NHSO_2$-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, -$NHSO_2$-phenyl, -$SO_2$-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl and -$SO_2$-phenyl

$R^{10}$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, which is linear or branched, and which can be substituted by a phenyl ring which itself can additionally be substituted by one or two radicals $R^9$, and

$R^{11}$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, which is linear or branched, and which can be substituted by a phenyl ring which itself can additionally be substituted by one or two radicals $R^9$, and

n is a number 0, 1 or 2, and

m and o independently of one another are each a numeral 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

2. (Currently Amended) An amide of the formula I as claimed in claim 1, where

$R^3$ is benzyl, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$, or $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$ and

Y is ~~pyridine~~ pyrimidine and

$R^4$ is CO-$NR^8NR^8$ and

$R^7$ is hydrogen

$R^8$ is $CH_2CH_2$, $CH_2CH_2CH_2$, or $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2$ and

$R^9$ is hydrogen and

n is 0 or 1 and

all remaining variables have the same meanings as in claim 1.

3. (Currently Amended) An amide of the formula I as claimed in claim 1, where

$R^3$ is benzyl, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$, or $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$ and

Y is ~~pyridine~~ pyrimidine and

$R^4$ is hydrogen and

$R^9$ is hydrogen

n is 0 or 1 and all remaining variables have the same meanings as in claim 1.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting cysteine proteases in a patient in need of such treatment comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the cysteine proteases are selected from the group consisting of calpains I and II and cathepsins B and L.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of amides of the formula I as claimed in claim [sic] 1-5 for the production of pharmaceuticals for the treatment of~~ A method of treating neurodegenerative diseases and neuronal damage in a patient in need of such treatment comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in claim 9 for the treatment of those~~ The method of claim 10 where the neurodegenerative diseases and ~~that~~ neuronal damage ~~which~~ is caused by ischemia, trauma or mass hemorrhages.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in~~ The method of claim 10 for the treatment of cerebral stroke and craniocerebral trauma.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in~~ The method of claim 10 ~~for the treatment of~~ wherein the disease is Alzheimer's disease or Huntington's disease.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in~~ The method of claim 10 ~~for the treatment of~~ wherein the disease is epilepsy.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of the compounds of the formula I as claimed in claim [sic] 1-5 for the production of pharmaceuticals and treatment of~~ A method of treating damage to the heart after cardiac ischemias, reperfusion damage after vascular occlusion, damage to the kidneys after renal ischemias, skeletal muscular damage, muscular dystrophies, damage which results due to proliferation of the smooth muscle cells, coronary vasospasm, cerebral vasospasm, cataracts of the eyes or restenosis of the blood vessels after angioplasty comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of the amides of the formula I as claimed in claim [sic] 1-5 for the production of pharmaceuticals for~~ A method of treating tumors and metastasis thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of the amides of the formula I as claimed in claim [sic] 1-5 for the production of pharmaceuticals for~~ A method of treating diseases in which increased interleukin-1 levels occur comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of the amides as claimed in claim [sic] 1-5 for~~ A method of treating inflammation and rheumatic disorders comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical ~~preparation~~ composition for oral, parenteral and intraperitoneal use, comprising ~~per individual dose, in addition to the customary pharmaceutical auxiliaries, at least of [sic] one amide 1 as claimed in claim [sic] 1-5~~ a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.